



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

- (d) REVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ORGANS, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, AS WELL AS OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES UNDER THE CONVENTION
- (e) REVIEW OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE FINANCING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION BY MULTILATERAL AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY CONCERNING DESERTIFICATION THAT RELATE TO ITS FOUR FOCAL AREAS, AS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 20, PARAGRAPH 2(b), OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

The following summary has been prepared by the secretariat based on the latest contribution received from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The full text of the contribution is available on the Convention Web site (www.unccd.int).

* ICCD/COP(4)/1.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

1. The commitment of IFAD to drylands development spans 23 years. The Fund mandate as an international development and financial institution is to contribute effectively to rural poverty alleviation in borrowing countries through agricultural/rural development and natural resources management projects and programmes financed by loans and grants. Combating deforestation, soil degradation and desertification is central to this mandate.
2. In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, IFAD provides support through project lending and Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) programmes: (a) to promote and consolidate beneficiary participation approaches as well as partnership development and local capacity-building; (b) to mobilize resources with bilateral and multilateral organizations and the private sector; and (c) to evaluate progress and learning from experience while facilitating the dissemination and exchange of information. The report focuses on: (a) the current project investment programme in arid/semi-arid zones; (b) the knowledge management and thematic networking activities undertaken under the Regional TAG Programme; and (c) the facilitating of support granted by the Fund in the formulation of the Regional and National Action Programmes, and related enabling and strategic activities.
3. The current IFAD loan/project portfolio in the region is comprised of 51 loans/projects distributed in 24 countries and four geographic/economic subregions. The share of IFAD resources allocated to projects being implemented in arid and semi-arid zones amounts to US\$287.5 million or 45 per cent of the total committed lending. There are various ongoing projects in the portfolio of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries that aim explicitly at combating desertification (for example in Brazil, Haiti, Mexico and Venezuela).
4. The regional TAG Programme of IFAD comprises 13 programmes, financed by an equal number of grants for a total of US\$10.7 million and a total cost of US\$26.6 million. Thematically, the TAG programme involves partnerships in various areas, including, for example, training, technical assistance and institutional strengthening for rural development, rural credit and micro-enterprise development, and internet-based thematic networking (the FIDAMES Network for Information Exchange). In Cuba and Haiti, IFAD provided support for the formulation of the National Action Programmes.
5. In **Asia**, IFAD supported activities related to National, Subregional and Regional Action Programmes (RAPs), and in particular to the establishment and development of Thematic Programme Networks 1, 2 and 3. IFAD also supports projects, for example in China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, aiming at, among others, the promotion of self-help groups that employ locally sustainable technologies, which link them to markets, and bring food security and resilience to communities.
6. IFAD loans for drylands investment projects are also complemented by (a) IFAD grants, comprising TAGs for agricultural research to institutions of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), for instance International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT); (b) TAGs to non-CGIAR institutions; and (c) Extended Cooperation Programme (ECP) grants to NGOs. Other IFAD activities in support of UNCCD include the Special Programme

for Asian Upland Countries, launched in mid-1998 to improve the quality of economic growth for illiterate, ethnic and tribal people of poor health, residing in semi-arid, marginal, upland areas of Asia.

7. IFAD-supported activities in the Near East and North Africa regions relevant to UNCCD implementation include contributions to the elaboration by the governments of National Action Programmes, both nationally and locally. IFAD financed activities with a major natural resources conservation dimension in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Support was extended to NGOs of the area. Most of the IFAD financed TAGs in the Near East and North Africa regions are implemented in collaboration with research centres for arid and semi-arid lands, i.e. ICARDA, Arab Centre for Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD).

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